A LESSON IN METRICS

Measurements within the metric system are based on units of 10 known as the decimal system.

Basic units of the metric system are:

▷ **Meter** - measurement of length and area

length	area
1 meter = 39.37 in.	1 sq. meter = 1550 sq. in.
1.09 yd.	10.76 sq. ft.

▷ **Liter** - measurement of capacity
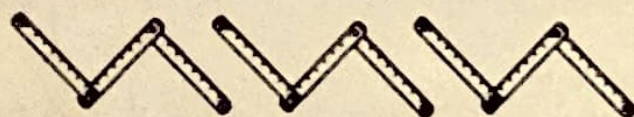
liquid	dry
1 liter = 33.81 oz.	1 liter = 61.02 cu. in.
1.05 qt.	.908 dry qt.

▷ **Gram** - measurement of weight

1 gram = .035 oz.
.002 lb.

▷ To these basic units are added prefixes representing different powers of 10. Some of the prefixes are:

kilo = 1000	deci = 1/10
hecto = 100	centi = 1/100
deka = 10	milli = 1/1000

▷ By combining the prefixes and the basic units, we can understand the following:

kilogram	1000 grams
hectoliter	100 liters
dekameter	10 meters
decigram	.1 gram
centiliter	.01 liter
millimeter	.001 meter